



Great Texas Birding Classic EZ-Guide

Will this be the year that your Site:

- ✓ wins \$1,000, \$5,000, or \$10,000?
- ✓ increases visitation by hosting a team?
- ✓ boosts teambuilding to a new level?

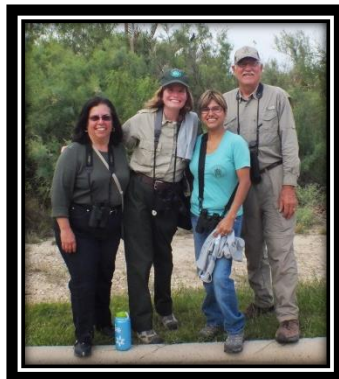


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What's It All About?

This year marks the **20th Annual Great Texas Birding Classic**, billed as the world's

Biggest, Longest, Wildest

birdwatching tournament.

The Birding Classic is a team birdwatching tournament that gives beginning and avid birders the opportunity to go out birding *anywhere* in the state of Texas! There are several tournament categories for participants to choose from—to fit their age, interests or schedules.

Team registration fees support habitat conservation projects throughout the state, and winning teams win the right to select which projects are funded. In fact, the tournament raised enough money through registration fees and sponsorships to award **\$25,000** in conservation grants in 2015, bringing the 19-year total for all grants awarded throughout Texas to **\$844,500.**

Three ways for your site to win money:

- (1) Enter a team made up of staffers, friends and family — and ID the most birds
- (2) Host a park team and invite the public to join in — and ID the most birds
- (3) Fill out a grant request form telling what you would do with the money (you can do this whether or not you enter a birding team).

TIMING

Registration deadline: April 1, 2016

Tournament dates: April 15-May 15, 2016 (teams choose the date that works best for them)

Questions: Shelly Plante, Nature Tourism Manager, (512) 389- 4500 or shelly.plante@tpwd.texas.gov

Why GTBC could be a Very Good Thing for your Site

➤ Win a Grant of up to \$10,000

Earn funding for your park- **\$1,000, \$5,000 and/or \$10,000**. Money can be used for restoration, enhancement or acquisition. Simply enter your own GTBC team and win, or submit a proposal for consideration. **Just ask Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Salineño Bird Refuge, and Goose Island State Park who each won \$5,000 for projects last year and Estero Llano Grande State Park who won an \$11,000 grant in 2014!**



➤ GTBC as a team-building opportunity

Encourage your staff to work together, teach each other, and have fun together while participating in or promoting the GTBC! Staff at Caprock Canyon State Park said they were “able to see their park in a new and different way”.

➤ Increase Site Visitation

We’ve provided a local marketing field kit for you to use which includes:

- pre-written social media posts for your FB pages
- flyers to post or handout
- press release template for local media
- copy for local community calendars (newspaper, radio, online, etc.)

There will also be a **Statewide promotion** of the GTBC (February – April):

- ad in *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine,
- posts on Birding Classic Facebook page and main TPWD Facebook page
- emails to over 260,000 outdoor enthusiasts, and
- press releases sent statewide.

Show Me the Money — Win \$1,000...\$5,000...or \$10,000

Conservation Grant Project Funding Opportunity: Whether you have a team in the tournament or not, DO SUBMIT a grant request for a chance to win conservation project funding! And, if you field a team and your team wins, you'll be in a position to select your group's project proposal: <http://bit.ly/17zw7hK>.

Conservation Grant Projects



Conservation Grants

Conservation Grants can be awarded to projects anywhere in Texas. The Birding Classic has donated \$844,500 in conservation funding to nature tourism and avian habitat restoration, enhancement, and acquisition projects throughout the state!

Number of grants awarded (and their amounts) are determined based on team registration fees (independent and sponsored) and corporate sponsorship dollars collected each year. The Birding Classic is a cost-recovery event, so once minimal event costs are covered all remaining funds go to conservation grants in Texas.

Conservation Grants awarded each year will include projects meeting [conservation grant criteria](#) for at least one each of the following (dependent on funds raised):

- **State Parks Grant** – Birding Classic staff and the winning State Park Tournament team work together to select a project.
- **General Conservation Grant** – Birding Classic staff and winning team(s) work together to select project(s). Winning team(s) include one or more of the top scoring Adult Big Day team (Regional and Statewide Tournaments combined - tournament category(ies) with the highest number of registered teams) and/or the top scoring Adult Weeklong Tournament team.
- **Lone Star Bird Award** – One randomly selected Big Sit! team's chooses grant award project from approved project list (team selection is based on the Lone Star Bird rules and does not necessarily go to the top scoring team).
- **Nature Tourism Grant** – partial funding for Texas Parks and Wildlife nature tourism programs (such as Great Texas Wildlife Trail map reprints).

Does your organization want to propose a project for funding consideration?

[Conservation Grant Criteria](#)

[Conservation Grant Proposal Form](#)

Conservation Grant Proposal Due Date: Sunday, May 1, 2016 by 9am

Field Marketing Kit: The more you tell, the more you sell....

To help spread the word about your site's participation use:

1. Social media (pre-written posts you can put on Facebook or Twitter)
2. Copy for local community event calendars (radio, TV, newspaper, online)
3. Press Release (localized)
4. Website: www.BirdingClassic.org

Marketing will be supporting GTBC with statewide:

- Ad running in *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine (Feb)
- Emails going out to over 260,000 outdoor enthusiasts
- Posts on Birding Classic and Texas Parks and Wildlife Facebook pages

1. Social media (posts you can use on Facebook or Twitter)

For Facebook:

Join the (your site name)'s Big Sit! team this _____(fill in day of the week/date) at _____(times) to help us spot and ID as many birds as possible throughout the day. We'll also have birders on hand to help teach you a little about birding! <http://youtu.be/x6bSYNzP1wQ>

See how much fun Birding at (your site name/community) can be in this year's [Great Texas Birding Classic](#) starting in April. Open to all ages and experience levels, it's a great way to experience Texas' famous spring migration. Choose a category that fits your lifestyle at <http://bit.ly/TxGTBC>

Thinking about doing a Big Sit! or Texas Two-Stop Tournament team in this year's Great Texas Birding Classic? (your site's name/community name) is a great spot for either! Check it out: <http://youtu.be/AQFHm5zum4o>

Thinking about doing a Big Sit! or State Park Tournament team in this year's Great Texas Birding Classic? (SP Name) is a great spot for either! Check it out: <http://youtu.be/AQFHm5zum4o>

Thinking about doing a Big Sit! or State Park Tournament team in this year's Great Texas Birding Classic? (SP Name) is a great spot for either! For more information: www.birdingclassic.org.

2. **Copy for local community event calendars (radio, TV, newspaper, online)**

- Join (insert your site name) in the 20th Annual Great Texas Birding Classic for a day of fresh air, bird watching and fun with friends. Form your own team or show up for our park's official "BIG SIT" on (date) at (time). It's described as "the world's biggest, longest and wildest bird watching tournament" but is essentially a friendly competition to see how many birds can be identified. If you've never tried birdwatching this is a great introduction.
- (Your site/community) invites you to join the "Big Sit" on (date) at (time to time) as part of the 20th Annual Great Texas Birding Classic. Join other nature and wildlife lovers in this family friendly competition to see how many birds can be identified. Call (phone) or email (address) for more info. www.BirdingClassic.org.

3. **Press release:**

April 1 Registration Deadline for Annual Texas Birding Contest

(YOUR CITY) – Looking for something fun to do outdoors that involves nature and wildlife? (State Park name) has just the answer--birdwatching. Whether you're a first-timer, a novice birder or a "fool" for birding who enjoys a little friendly competition, the 20th Annual [Great Texas Birding Classic](#) is a must. Form a team and enter to compete by the April 1 deadline.

Enter one or several categories lasting from a morning of birding or 24 hours of competition up to an entire week during this year's Birding Classic being held from April 15 through May 15. For the fourth year, participants choose from among 43 different categories that offer something for everyone, regardless of bird watching experience, age, ability, location, length of time available to bird and other variants.

Last year's Great Texas Birding Classic attracted more than 500 participants from El Paso and the Panhandle to the Rio Grande Valley and the Pineywoods of East Texas, who recorded 415 avian species during a host of regional and statewide tournaments. One hundred teams entered, attracted by the format flexibility and lower registration fees.

"Last year's participation was the highest in the past decade," says GTBC director Shelly Plante, TPWD's nature tourism manager. "The Classic is a perfect fit for naturalists, birders, communities, nature centers, bird clubs and school groups. Besides, it's a fun way to spend the day outside with family and friends."

Participating teams can choose from a variety of tournament categories including:

- The Big Sit! This category is great for teams that have one or two "ringer" birders or if you have lots of people wanting to be on one team together.
- The new Texas Two-Stop Tournament and the State Park Tournament, Big Sit! or Sunrise-to-Noon Tournament. Ideal for a team seeking a more laid-back day without too much traveling around and for teams composed of mixed ages, so kids, teens and adults can be on a team together.

- Regional Big Day. Perfect for those who want to test their skills against others in your part of the state, while birding for most or all of a 24-hour period. Categories are separated by age groups. Mentor a Roughwings (13 years and younger) or Gliders (age 14-18) or do your own adult tourney.
- Statewide Tournament. Take on birders throughout Texas for either the Statewide Big Day Tournament for 24 hours of birding or enter the Statewide Weeklong Tournament for six consecutive days of birding anywhere and everywhere in Texas.

To register online and learn the rules and tournament details, visit: www.BirdingClassic.org. All registration fees and sponsorship dollars go toward conservation grants benefiting birding, nature tourism, and habitat restoration and enhancement projects throughout Texas. Some winning teams even help select which projects will be funded.

- Have questions? Talk to **(your contact name, phone, email)**

Copy for local media for a Big Sit

Great Texas Birding Classic at **(your site name)**: Sign Up Now!



How many of Texas' 642 documented bird species have you seen? Join Texas' biggest birding roundup – the [Great Texas Birding Classic](http://www.BirdingClassic.org) and search for a few more. **(Insert name your site)** is inviting everybody to play in the world's biggest, longest and wildest bird watching tournament! Here's the [speedy video version](#) of what it looks like.

[Text if your site is doing a Big Sit! team] One of the easiest ways to participate is to take part in a Big Sit! team, so **(your site name)** will be hosting their own Big Sit! on _____(date) at _____(time) where all are invited to join the fun! **[If your site finds a team sponsor, then the first 20 people will get a free t-shirt as well]**. So, gather your friends and family to join the **(insert name of your site's team)** for the Big Sit! and put your binoculars and your bird ID skills to work.

[Alternate text if not doing a Big Sit! team] Categories range from half-day tournaments to full days and vary by age group, with some all-age tourneys. There's even a week long statewide event for those with the stamina and spare time. There's truly something for everyone! So gather your friends and family and put together your team. Be sure to head out to **(your site name)** during your tournament or even field a State Park Tournament or Texas Two-Stop Tournament team right here in our park. We'd love to have you out!

Keep these dates in mind:

- April 1: Registration deadline for participating teams. All fees and forms are due. Late registration fees begin on this date.
- April 15 - May 15: Official Birding Classic tournament days. For inspiration, [watch "Flocking with Friends"](#) about one team's enthusiastic participation.

Ad in TPW Magazine (Feb)

Celebrate **20 YEARS**
of a Texas birding
tradition!



**2016
GREAT TEXAS
BIRDING CLASSIC**

APRIL 15 – MAY 15

Join the world's wildest birdwatching tournament
and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Classic!

Register by April 1 at www.birdingclassic.org

**REGISTER YOUR
TEAM TODAY**

Find the category that fits
your lifestyle, register your
team, and start counting
birds. All experience levels
and ages welcome.



Grants for birding
and habitat projects are
funded by entry fees.



Life's better outside.®

Celebrate **20 YEARS**
of a Texas birding
tradition!



**2016
GREAT TEXAS
BIRDING CLASSIC**

April 15 – May 15, 2016

Join the world's wildest birdwatching tournament
and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Classic!

Beginning and experienced birders from all across Texas can play!



Find the tournament
that fits your lifestyle,
register your team,
and start counting birds.
All ages welcome.



Grants for
birding and
habitat projects
are funded by
entry fees.

The birds are counting on you!

Register by April 1, 2016 at
www.birdingclassic.org



Life's better outside.®

PDF of FLYER available - similar to ad:

How to participate <http://bit.ly/1dNevMI>

How to Participate!



Join the fun in a few easy steps:

1. **Pick a [tournament category](#).**
2. **Find team members.**
Ask friends, family, co-workers, bird club members, or other people in your community to join you in the field.
3. **Find a sponsor(s) or collect registration fees from your teammates.**
See [Sponsorship Tips](#) for strategies to find one or more team sponsors to cover your entry fees.
4. **Read tournament rules.**
5. **Fill out a team [Registration Form](#) and pay registration fees online.**
6. **Register on the [Texas eBird portal](#)**
Teams need an eBird account under their team name to submit a final tournament checklist. You should practice eBird entries before the tournament either with lists from some of your scouting or practice days or another quick bird trip list. This will help you get used to the way eBird works. For more information, visit [Bird Checklist Submission](#).
7. **Select tournament day(s), and go out and bird!**
Send your selected tournament date(s) to gtbc@tpwd.texas.gov within 24 hours of your competition day(s) for official Birding Classic records.
8. **Submit official tournament checklist through eBird.**
Follow submission directions provided at [Bird Checklist Submission](#). Once you've entered your checklist into eBird, you will need to share that list in eBird with the Birding Classic account, GTBCStaff.
9. **Share!**
Do you Tweet? Use #GTBC16 on Twitter so other birders can follow the action.
Like the [Birding Classic Facebook page](#) and post photos directly.
10. **See how you did!**
Winners Report will be posted online once checklists from all teams are received and scored from eBird. GTBC staff will work with winning teams from several tournaments to select conservation project grant recipients. Conservation grant amounts and number of grants awarded is dependent on money raised through team registration fees and sponsorship dollars.
11. **Start planning for 2017!**
21st Annual Great Texas Birding Classic dates are April 15 - May 15, 2017.



- **Registration fees for all tournament categories:** <http://bit.ly/1dvqeLJ>

Registration Fees



All Teams Register as Either Independent or Sponsored Teams

The Birding Classic is a cost-recovery event paid for through team registration fees and sponsor donations. Once event costs are covered all remaining funds will be used for nature tourism and avian habitat conservation and enhancement projects in Texas. [Conservation grants](#) awarded (number of grants and grant amounts) are determined based on registration fees (independent and sponsored) and corporate sponsorship dollars collected each year.

Independent Teams:

Independent teams must pay their own **independent team registration fees** and travel expenses for all team members to enter their tournament category. Designated drivers and chaperones do not pay entry fees and must cover their own travel expenses. Independent teams may not carry an organization's or site's name. Only sponsored teams may promote an organization's or site's name.



Sponsored Teams:

Teams may secure sponsors or co-sponsors to offset the costs of the team by paying their **sponsored team registration fee**. Teams can work with their sponsor on additional travel expenses or can pay their own travel expenses. Sponsored teams can be named for their sponsoring organization or site and may promote their sponsor's/sponsors' name on clothing, car decals, or any other appropriate promotional materials. See [Sponsorship Tips](#) for ideas and tips on finding a team sponsor.

Registration Fees:

Tournament Category	Independent Team Fees * (no team sponsor)	Sponsored Team Fees
Adult Regional Big Day, Adult Statewide Big Day, Adult Statewide Weeklong Tournaments (19 years old and older), or Texas Two-Stop Tournament (all ages)	\$50 per team member	\$1000 per team
Big Sit! (for first 20 members only - all additional members are free entry but receive no event t-shirt), Gliders (14-18 years old), Human-Powered, Outta-Sight Song Birder, State Park, or Sunrise to Noon Tournaments	\$30 per team member	\$500 per team
Roughwings Tournament (13 years old and younger)	\$20 per team member	\$250 per team

- **Official event registration information:** <http://bit.ly/1jltbjq>

Event Registration



REGISTER YOUR TEAM:

- Review [How-to Participate!](#)
- Select a [Tournament Category](#). If participating in a Regional Tournament, refer to the [Regional Tournament Map](#) to select your region.
- [Register your team](#)
- Please make a copy of your registration for your records. The team captain will receive a confirmation email with a link for fee payments.
- **Pay your Registration Fee** (or have your sponsor pay) for your total team [registration fees](#). **(PLEASE NOTE: The Birding Classic accepts online payment via credit card only. Do not mail a check for registration fees to TPWD.)**
- Team registration is complete once you have received a confirmation email from the TPWD Nature Tourism Manager.
- You must email the [GTBC coordinator](#) with your **selected tournament date(s)** within 24-hours of your team's competition day(s). This email with your chosen tournament date(s) is for GTBC record keeping purposes since all team checklists must be entered into eBird by midnight on the day following your tournament completion.



Official Event Registration Form

- **Official Tournament Rules:** <http://bit.ly/1gBGkgo>

Rules



Find answers to the following questions and more!

- How many people per team?
- When is my tournament day?
- Do all team members need to see or hear every bird for it to count?
- What are my tournament's geographic boundaries?
- When are checklists due?
- How do I turn in my checklist?
- Are there any prizes?



Official Tournament Rules

All teams must follow the tournament rules for official standing in their tournament category.

Additional Resources:

- [Tournament Advice](#)

How to Find Financial Sponsors

Friends Groups, convention and visitors bureaus and economic development groups, local businesses and more could sponsor your team(s) or split a team sponsorship as co-sponsors.

Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/1BONt7M>

Team Sponsorship Tips



How to Find a Team Sponsor

Teams may participate in the Birding Classic as a sponsored team if they have a corporate, community, or non-profit sponsor (or sponsors) willing to pay the Sponsored **Team Registration Fee** for their tournament category (price range of \$250 - \$1000, depending on the tournament category).

If one sponsor is not able to cover the entire sponsored registration fee, teams may choose to find multiple sponsors to split the fee and share co-sponsorship name recognition in Birding Classic materials and in the team name.



Where should you look?

Think Local! Would the company you work for be interested in sponsoring your team for recognition during the tournament and on the Birding Classic website as a team sponsor? Do you have any connections with local businesses?

Approach organizations such as a birding club, a state Audubon society or local chapter, a non-profit organization, a business or corporate enterprise, an individual, or a combination of organizations to cover your sponsored entry fees.

Sponsors in the past have been as varied as:

- Local grocery stores (could possibly donate food to your team for competition day)
- Hardware stores (think of all the bird seed and feeders they sell!)
- Banks
- Environmental consulting companies,
- Car dealerships (can also loan you a vehicle for the tournament day potentially)
- Optics companies
- Birding magazines

[-continued- on web page](#)

How to Run a Birding Tournament...and look good doing it

Tips for mentoring a youth team, hosting a Big Sit!, doing a Big Day Tournament, taking on the Weeklong Tournament, or birding with blind or visually impaired birders can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/1gBGwvY>



Need help? Looking for advice from previous participants?

You've come to the right place!

- **GTBC EZ Guide** - a complete guide for site managers and community leaders who want tips on how to promote their team(s) locally, manage team members for team-building or for a public event, apply for bird conservation grants, find sponsors, and more!
- **Big Day Regional Tournament Strategy** - Strategy advice from a winning team member and past participant in various tournament categories on how to best take on a "Big Day" of birding.
- **Weeklong Tournament Strategy** - Strategy advice from a multi-year winning team's captain on how best to tackle the whole state over multiple days.
- **How to Field a Big Sit! Team** - Tips from past teams to help make your Sit! go smoothly.
- **How to Plan a Team for the State Park Tournament** - Tips from some state park staff and past participants to help you start your team!
- **Mentor/Chaperone Tips and Activities for Youth Teams** - Advice from several past youth mentors and chaperones on how best to engage and prepare the 18 and under set. Includes game ideas!
- **Blind Birders Tip Sheet** - Guidance from blind birders on best ways to assist while in the field.
- **How to Find a Sponsor** - Suggestions on how to find a great local or corporate sponsor to help pay your entry fees (and maybe your travel expenses).



Want a sneak peek of the Birding Classic? View the video below!

Flocking with Friends: The Great Texas Birding Classic -

Post Tournament — It's a Wrap <http://bit.ly/1LOd4PX>

Once your team completes its tournament day(s), the final step is to officially turn your team checklist in to the [Texas eBird portal](#). Find all of the information you need to submit your list here. Call Shelly Plante, Nature Tourism Manager, at 512-389-4500 if you need assistance. Checklists are due within 24 hours of completion of your tournament day.

Bird Checklist Submission



The Birding Classic is now using the Texas eBird portal for Birding Classic team checklist submission. This is a great opportunity for teams to contribute to citizen science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology while raising money for birding and avian habitat [conservation projects](#) throughout Texas (through team registration fees and sponsorships).

Step-by-Step Instructions on Using eBird for the Birding Classic

Enhanced How-to Guide for the eBird beginner (or those who like all the details):

eBIRD HOW-TO GUIDE WITH SCREENSHOT GRAPHICS

Basic How-to Guide for Those Familiar with eBird:

1. Go to the Texas eBird portal online: <http://ebird.org/content/tx>
2. **Each individual team must create an eBird account with the team name.** If you have more than one team, each team must have a different eBird account associated with it. You can put your team name in the "First name" and "Last name" fields when registering (e.g., "The Whirlibirds" would become "First name: The", "Last name: Whirlibirds").
3. Enter all scouting data into eBird using the standard eBird Observation Types under the "Data and Effort" page. **Submitting scouting lists gives you eBird practice** before your tournament day while also contributing to the eBird international database which helps other birders, biologists, and more! [Visit eBird](#) for more information on how to use the online tool and for information on how this data is used.
4. **Submit ONE checklist on the day of the competition that represents your official submission for the event.** When submitting your OFFICIAL CHECKLIST, use the "Other – Great Texas Birding Classic" Observation Type listed on the "Data and Effort" screen. Almost all of you will be doing 'Traveling Counts' (with the exception of Big Sit teams), so do your best to estimate the distance traveled. An estimate is fine. Fill in as much of the other information as you know (acreage is usually not applicable, for example). Under "Comments" fill in your tournament category for the Birding Class.
5. Fill in your checklist with the species seen/heard definitively during your tournament days, based on the [Rules](#) of the Great Texas Birding Classic for counting (**Rule I.A-J**). Use the following guidelines in your checklist reporting:
 - Reporting the total number of each species seen gives much better data for eBird, so hopefully during scouting days at least you will be able to provide that level of



Announcement of Winners and Awarding of Prizes !!!!!

<http://bit.ly/1wmBAi2>

The Awards Ceremony is a favorite with past participants as it gives everyone a chance to share their stories from the field and meet the winners. This year we will have two events to make distance easier for the majority of teams. More information about these events will be posted online and teams will receive invitations in early May to these events.

Awards Ceremonies



20th Annual Birding Classic Awards Ceremonies



Regional Awards Events made possible by Audubon Texas.

When: Saturday, June 4, 2016, 1:00-3:00pm

Teams will receive emailed invitations to these events with instructions on how to RSVP with the number in their party and which event they plan to attend (there will be a choice of venues at the same time on the same date). RSVPs will be due May 27th.

Join Texas Parks and Wildlife and Audubon Texas to celebrate your team's participation in the biggest, longest, and wildest birdwatching tournament in the US!

The Awards Ceremony is a favorite with past participants as it gives everyone a chance to share their stories from the field and meet the winners. This year we will have two or three events to make distance easier for the majority of teams.



More information on this year's Awards Ceremonies coming soon!

The 2015 event was a record year:

- Event attracted a record-breaking 100 teams and recorded 415 species.
- The birding tournament raised enough money through registration fees and sponsorships to award \$25,000 in conservation grants in 2015, bringing the 19-year total for all grants awarded throughout Texas to \$844,500.

What are People Saying about the Birding Classic?



“It’s an excellent program and a great excuse to get out and do some birding. The conservation grants program that comes out of funds raised from the Classic supports worthy projects that benefit bird habitat, birding, conservation, education and outreach...It was a great party... I mean big sit. And a great weekend for birding all around!” - Rick Laughlin, **Rio Brazos Audubon Society**, member of Brazos Banditry Big Sit! team in local community park, 2015



We had so much fun competing together, and the staff have already let me know that they want to do it again next year! - Marisa Oliva-Rodriguez, Manager, **Edinburg Scenic Wetlands & World Birding Center**, member of Wetland Waders, Lower Texas Coast Big Day team, 2015

“We had a blast – and yes, we plan on making this a yearly event!” - Michael Price, Executive Director, **I-20 Wildlife Preserve & Jenna Welch Nature Study Center**, Big Sit! team 2015



“Having sponsored and participated in the Great Texas Birding Classic since its inception, Port Aransas has increasingly benefited from the exposure that we receive through this outstanding program. Sponsorship is one thing, but when you involve both birders and non-birders from the community through participation, the awareness of what’s ‘in your own backyard’ is most rewarding. Participation then turns into winning, and the recognition and awards bring even more awareness and esteem to the community. I can say without a doubt that the GTBC has definitely brought great rewards, to not only the Chamber, but the entire community of Port Aransas.” - Ann Vaughan, President and CEO, **Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce**

What are People Saying about the Birding Classic?



Regional Lower Texas Coast Big Day winning team from (mostly) **Estero Llano Grande State Park** winning the right to designate \$7,500 in funding to a conservation project.



“What a fun and enjoyable way to spend an afternoon with good friends and coworkers. A good time was had by all and I think we all learned a little about birding, **Caprock Canyons State Park** and each other... I know I can't wait until next year to do it again! I am thinking that next year will be a competition with different teams in the park and maybe even other parks within the region! Who's with me????” – Donald Beard, Park Superintendent, Caprock Canyons State Park. State Park Tournament team 2013



Park Host Huck Hutchens, from **Estero Llano Grande State Park**, was selected as one of the “Most Valuable Birder (MVB)” and displays his plaque.



Lake Colorado City State Park Superintendent, Kyle O'Haver, (above) showing how to do a solo Big Sit! while also catching up on your beauty sleep. He let us know that Facebook became his birding buddy for the day as he posted great shots of sunrise, sunset, birds, and other views throughout the day. It was definitely a fun day to follow on social media!